

Today's News - Thursday, July 9, 2009

- Gretes' Market Research Strategies in Uncertain Times #2: Finding Leads.
- Chakrabarti's offers a searing critique of stimulus spending, "shovel ready" and urban sprawl, and presents an alternative vision for the future.
- Farrelly fears "confusion and a potentially dangerous paralysis" as skeptics amp up the climate change debate.
- Piers Gough minces no words re: "carbuncles and coronets" (i.e. Prince Charles) - "He wants architecture to stagnate and die...we are a more confident profession and don't have to bow to such tosh."
- One way to save Canada's imperiled architectural heritage - and help the economy: use stimulus money to restore historic buildings instead of eradicating them for new ones.
- It looks like the latest iteration of St. Vincent's Hospital plans in Greenwich Village have won over the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission.
- Boston's Gardner Museum carriage house meets its fate: it's a wrecking ball after all.
- Dyckhoff and Glancey stroll SANAA's Serpentine and thoroughly enjoy what the see: it's "mesmerizing and fun. You can touch it. It won't bite"; and a "delightful structure...meandering happily between the trees."
- Woodman finds the 7/7 Memorial "exceptionally well gauged."
- Kamin offers up winner of Chicago's Burnham Memorial competition (with link to images of all entries).
- Makovsky's Q&A with authors of "Urbanizing the Mojave Desert: Las Vegas" re: the idea of a green Las Vegas and how recent developments are redefining the desert landscape.
- BuildingGreen launches LEEDUser to help design teams understand the 2009 rating systems (beta version free until October).
- We cheer (unofficial) news that Casey Jones is returning to the GSA Design Excellence program - this time as its next director.

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Market Research Strategies in Uncertain Times #2: Finding Leads that one can act on right away is a difficult task, especially during tough economic times, but these strategies can help. By Frances Gretes - ArchNewsNow

A Country of Cities: Vishaan Chakrabarti delivers a searing critique of stimulus spending, "shovel ready" and urban sprawl, and presents an alternative vision for the future. - Urban Omnibus

White-coated warriors take our breath away: As climate concern moves in from fringe to orthodoxy, the sceptics amp it up. And although debate ought to be a good thing, the result is confusion and a potentially dangerous paralysis...Planet Earth is our house. Minimising, containing and recycling our excretions is simple common sense. By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

Carbuncles and coronets: The Prince of Wales demands that British buildings hark back to the past, but architects will be bullied no more...all sorts of buildings have become more attractive and interesting...All by ignoring the prince's advice...He wants architecture to stagnate and die. This time, however, the war is won: we are a more confident profession and don't have to bow to such tosh. By Piers Gough - New Statesman (UK)

National Post editorial board: Canadian history, imperilled: At a time when governments are looking to bolster employment through infrastructure stimulus, one option is...to restore a wide range of Canada's historic buildings. It would seem more worthwhile to protect our heritage than, say, buy a failing company...We may be a young country with more land than history, but we risk losing much of the history we have in a race to eradicate old buildings for new ones. - National Post (Canada)

Victory at Last for St. Vincent's: NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission approves FXFOWLE condos, last piece of Village redevelopment puzzle...voted 9-1 in favor of the scaled-back complex, now in its fourth iteration. -- Albert C. Ledner; Pei Cobb Freed [images, links]- The Architect's Newspaper

Gardner Museum tears down structure at heart of dispute: A building with an intimate connection to one of Boston's most celebrated figures, Isabella Stewart Gardner, was smashed to the ground [Monday] at the back of the museum that bears her name...razed to make way for new museum buildings designed by Renzo Piano. [image]- Boston Globe

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion by SANAA, London: The pavilion may be ethereal, but it's not unreal like a computer graphic...It's mesmerising, and fun...The building is only really finished when the public take it over...The intent always is to make contemporary architecture unintimidating, but not dumbed down. You can touch it. It won't bite. By Tom Dyckhoff [video link]- The Times (UK)

Sanaa's summer pavilion brings sunshine to the Serpentine: The looping roof of polished aluminium is one more marvel from the Japanese duo turning architecture on its head...a delightful structure...Meandering happily between the trees...it is the architectural equivalent of a stroll in the park. By Jonathan Glancey - Guardian (UK)

7/7 Memorial in London's Hyde Park: The tribute to the victims of the 7/7 bombings is exceptionally well gauged...a tribute both to the skill of the architects and to the intelligence with which the victims' families have helped steer the design process. By Ellis Woodman -- Carmody Groarke [slide show, video]- Telegraph (UK)

Chicago architect wins competition for Burnham memorial: ...competition has been drawn criticism from civic activists and architecture critics who argued that other problems on the lakefront...should rate higher on the civic priority list than improving the 11-year-old Museum Campus. By Blair Kamin -- David Woodhouse Architects [images, link to entries]- Chicago Tribune

Q&A: Leaving Las Vegas: ...Nicole Huber and Ralph Stern have taken a more serious view of Sin City in their new photo book, "Urbanizing the Mojave Desert: Las Vegas," which shows a hybrid landscape reshaped by everyday urbanization...I spoke to the authors about the book, the idea of a green Las Vegas, and how recent developments are redefining the desert landscape. By Paul Makovsky [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

Lost Over LEED?: BuildingGreen Launches Software to Help LEED Certification: LEEDUser...launched as a free beta version, but which will be charged on a subscription basis in October... [links]- Earth2Tech

Casey Up to Bat: Competition consultant wins key job at GSA: Casey Jones, a principal at jones|kroloff, has been named the next director of the General Services Administration's Design Excellence program...will replace Thomas Grooms, the program's current head. - The Architect's Newspaper

WORDS THAT BUILD: Faster! Deeper! Broader! Tip #16: How to balance high-speed communication with in-depth communication. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

-- Alberto Campo Baeza: MA: Andalucia's Museum of Memory, Granada, Spain
-- LAM architects: Giraffe House, Rotterdam Zoo, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

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